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NSC BRIEFING

8 November 1954

"NEW" SOVIET PLANES

I. Bad weather cancelled the scheduled Moscow fly-past of 7 November. However, this is appropriate time to forewarn against a possible "dope" story on new Soviet airplanes, such as the affair of the "IL-38" and "TU-200" of some months ago.

- A. The publishers of Aviation Week have provided D/I USAF with photographs purporting to show two new Soviet aircraft designs--one them a delta-wing jet fighter.
- B. Since a considerable volume of recent reports have alleged Soviet development of delta-wing aircraft (which have decided advantages at supersonic speeds) these pictures--which are poor in quality--have been carefully scrutinized by the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright/Patterson Air Force Base.
- C. The delta "fighter" embodied a sharply swept-back wing which, except for the sweep of the trailing edge, resembles Western delta-wing prototypes.
- D. The other photo showed a "bomber", with tapered or moderately swept-back wings, vertical stabilizer and a probable navigation bombing radome fitted forward on the underside of the fuselage.
- E. Analysis shows that the two photographs have characteristics in common with photographs of three bombers and one fighter previously procured by Aviation Week from

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1. Only one picture of each type of plane received -
 2. Small image-size on relatively large negative -
 3. Pictures basically silhouettes -
 4. Jumbled or inconsistent perspective -
 5. Lack of detail -
- F. Maximum enlargements of the two photographs do not provide detail sufficient to establish either the authenticity of the photographs or the genuineness of the aircraft portrayed.
- G. On the basis of these findings and the basis of previous investigations, it is believed that, as with the "Il-38" and "TU-200", Aviation Week is the victim of another fraud and that US intelligence has not been scooped.



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